

Claims

What is claimed is:

Sub 11

1. A piston assembly having a pre-established configuration, said piston assembly comprising:
 - a piston member having a plurality of ring grooves therein;
 - a plurality of rings being positioned within said plurality of ring grooves, said plurality of rings having an expanded position and a compressed position, said piston member and said plurality of rings being coated by one of a lubricant and a rust inhibitor;
 - a sleeve being positioned about said piston member and said plurality of rings, said sleeve maintaining said plurality of rings in said compressed position; and
 - a container being positioned about said piston member.
2. The piston assembly of claim 1, wherein the container is a bag.
3. The piston assembly of claim 2, wherein said container is sealed.
4. The piston assembly of claim 1, wherein a second container is adapted to hold a plurality of piston assemblies in a pre-packaged configuration.
5. The piston assembly of claim 1 wherein said sleeve has a variable inside diameter.
6. A piston assembly having a pre-established configuration, said piston assembly comprising:

0960216-092101

a piston member having a plurality of ring grooves therein;
a plurality of rings being positioned within said plurality of ring grooves, said plurality of rings having an expanded position and a compressed position, said piston member and said plurality of rings being coated by one of a lubricant and a rust inhibitor;

a sleeve being positioned about said piston member and said plurality of rings, said sleeve maintaining said plurality of rings in said compressed position; and

a container being positioned about said piston member.

7. The piston assembly of claim 1, wherein the container is a bag.

8. The piston assembly of claim 2, wherein said container is sealed.

9. The piston assembly of claim 1, wherein a second container is adapted to hold a plurality of piston assemblies in a pre-packaged configuration.

10. The piston assembly of claim 1 wherein said sleeve has a variable inside diameter.

11. A method of assembling a prepackaged piston assembly having a pre-established configuration into an engine, said prepackaged piston assembly comprising a piston assembly, said piston assembly having a piston member and a plurality of rings thereon, and a sleeve positioned thereabout maintaining said plurality of rings in a compressed position, said engine having a block and a cylinder bore therein; said method of assembly comprising the steps of:

removing said piston assembly from a container;

09960216-092101

bore;
positioning said piston assembly in alignment with said cylinder

positioning said sleeve in contact with said block ;
maintaining said sleeve in contact with said block;
removing said piston assembly from said sleeve;
inserting said piston assembly into said cylinder bore; and
disposing of said sleeve.

12. The method of assembly in claim 11, wherein said step of removing said piston assembly from said sleeve includes said piston member being pushed from said sleeve into said cylinder bore simultaneously.

13. The method of assembly in claim 11, wherein said step of removing said the piston assembly from said sleeve includes pulling said piston member into said cylinder bore simultaneously.

14. The method of assembly in claim 11, wherein said step of inserting said piston member the plurality of rings are released from said compressed position within said cylinder bore.

15. The method of assembly of claim 7, wherein said step of removing said piston assembly from said container includes breaking a seal.

16. The method of assembly in claim 7, wherein a further step includes visually confirming the position of the plurality of rings.

17. A sleeve adapted for use with a piston assembly having a piston member, the piston member having a predetermined ring spread said sleeve maintaining a plurality of rings in a compressed position, said sleeve comprising:

a top surface;
a bottom surface;

00960216-092101

an outer wall;
a sleeve bore being substantially perpendicular to the bottom surface; and
a window extending from said outer wall to said sleeve bore.

18. The sleeve of claim 17, being manufactured of a substantially transparent material.

19. The sleeve of claim 17, wherein said sleeve bore includes a variable inside diameter.

20. A method of manufacturing a sleeve for use with a piston assembly having a pre-packaged configuration, said method including the steps of:

providing a first length of tube having a pre-determined inside diameter, an outer wall, a first end and a second end;

removing a second length of tube from said first length of tube, said second length of tube having a length being greater than a ring spread of said piston assembly; and

providing a window, extending from said outer wall to said sleeve bore.

21. The method of manufacturing a sleeve of claim 20, wherein said first length of tube is a liner for a combustion cylinder of an engine.

05960216.092101